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TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [YM](#) [EAC](#)

SUBJECT: SANAA EAC MEETING - 20 DECEMBER 2003

Classified By: Ambassador E.J. Hull, for reasons 1.5 (B) and (D)

11. (s) Summary: On December 20 Ambassador convened an EAC meeting to discuss Post response to recent security incidents involving Westerners. Post has confirmed that three Western males were stabbed in or near the Old City on December 15-17. After reviewing security procedures, the Embassy issued an updated warden message cautioning Americans against travel on foot around Bab al-Yemen, Tahrir Square, the Bounia neighborhood and the areas surrounding the Taj Sheba Hotel, Jamal Street and Suq al-Qah. Subject to ROYG concurrence, EAC also agreed to request that RSO arrange security-escorted visits for Embassy personnel who wish to visit these areas. End Summary.

Three Westerners Stabbed in Old City Area

12. (s) RSO briefed the EAC on what Post has been able to confirm through contacts with other Embassies and the ROYG. On December 15 a Dutch national was knifed in Bab al-Yemen. On December 16, a German national was stabbed walking from the Taj Sheba hotel to al-Tahrir Square. On December 17, an Austrian national was knifed knocking at a door in the al-Bunia neighborhood. RSO also informed the EAC that all the men were clearly identified as European and are blond. The Austrian national told the Yemen Observer newspaper that the attacker muttered something regarding Saddam Hussein.

13. (s) A/DCM relayed information from the German DCM who said the Austrian national and the German national have described different attackers. Local news organizations also report the German national said he was attacked by two men.

ROYG Confirms Two Stabbings

14. (s) A/RSO met with Ministry of Interior Chief of Staff Sunidar on December 18 who confirmed that a Dutch and a German national were stabbed. CONS issued a warden message on December 18 informing the community of two stabbings. A/RSO noted that he requested a follow-up meeting with the Ministry of Interior (MOI), but this request was denied by the MOI, which cited that A/RSO already had met with Sunidar that week and that Sunidar was tied up in meetings all day. A/RSO will continue to push for an MOI meeting as soon as possible. Ambassador reviewed Warden message distribution procedures, noting that many Embassy employees only received the announcement on Saturday morning (December 20) when they opened their email. CONS will investigate alternate weekend distribution to American employees.

New Security Procedures: Escorted Visits to Areas of Concern

15. (s) Ambassador proposed to the EAC that the A/RSO, in consultation with the CLO, organize escorted trips to the areas of concern. AID suggested adding Suq al-Qah to the areas subject to caution and EAC members concurred. FPD encouraged all Embassy staff to travel in groups. The EAC agreed to issue a Warden message updating members of the American community about the third incident. The message also cautions American citizens to be particularly alert and to avoid travel on foot around Bab al-Yemen, Tahrir Square, the Bounia neighborhood and the areas surrounding the Taj Sheba Hotel, Jamal Street and Suq al-Qah. EAC also agreed to reissue guidance encouraging Americans to limit use of public transportation to known, reliable operators. An updated Warden message was sent on December 20.

16. (u) Ambassador tasked CONS to take the temperature of the Warden community and advise if the Ambassador should schedule a Warden meeting.

HULL